

ADMINISTRATIVE -- INTERNAL USE ONLY

*Reprints in
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2001

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1 C/LRB	<i>gn</i>
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21 December 1981

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Room 6E45, Headquarters

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FBIS COVERAGE OF POLISH SITUATION

1. Collection:

Warsaw Domestic Service continues to broadcast a single national program 24 hours per day utilizing three transmitters located in the Warsaw area. Newcasts continue to be broadcast on the hour and range from 7 to 35 minutes, concentrating primarily on domestic events. Warsaw Domestic Television Service continues to follow its usual program schedule for the most part, but with longer than usual newscasts. (Last night's main evening newscast, for example, ran 50 minutes.) The television service added a new newscast for its 0900 GMT timeslot.

The Warsaw press agency PAP, which normally transmits in English and Russian, as well as in beams for maritime recipients, remains untraced since the beginning of martial law. The Soviet news agency TASS is continuing to transmit some PAP material, which FBIS is reporting on merit and which often repeats material obtained from Radio Warsaw.

Regional Polish broadcast services remain off the air, although the mediumwave transmitter in Katowice transmits test tones intermittently. All of Warsaw's international services remain off the air.

London and Austrian bureaus have been checking reports that an unofficial Polish radio has been heard broadcasting [] but thus far monitors have not been able to confirm this.

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FBIS London is now receiving two daily Warsaw papers, journals of the PZPR and the military, sending important material by facsimile to Vienna and Washington for processing. The papers, normally received by air mail, apparently arrived in London aboard chartered LOT flights.

A third Warsaw daily, Dziennik Ludowy, organ of the United Peasant Party (ZSL), was announced by Radio Warsaw on 19 December as having also resumed publication.

2. Retasking:

FBIS Washington has received no Polish papers through its normal channels (air mail [] since the declaration of martial law. OCR has been in touch with the Department of State. There are apparently no pouches arriving from Warsaw. The Austrian Bureau has also received no Polish papers.

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FBIS has also been supplying consumers with information on jamming of Polish-language broadcasts from the West. As of 20 December, BBC, VOA, [] Polish broadcasts were not being jammed; Radio Free Europe broadcasts were experiencing "extra" jamming.

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3. Assessment:

FBIS monitoring continues to provide a broad range of information on Polish developments, both from the official Polish Government sources and correspondents reporting from Poland. FBIS has also been involved in scotching rumors: On 21 December, for example, there were rumors that Radio Moscow had announced that Lech Walesa had committed suicide, but monitoring did not produce such a report.

Among interesting material carried over the weekend was the assertion of the Polish radio that the PZPR party had not lost its important role in Poland's affairs, and that party members were "rallying" in support of the government.

Soviet media continued to charge the United States with interference in Polish affairs. However, the Soviets depict the situation in Poland as being well under control as a result of the Jaruzelski measures.

The New York Times has been carrying a daily feature of excerpts from FBIS monitoring of Poland, crediting the material simply to "the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, a U.S. Government agency." The Times apparently obtained the material from the State Department press office. On other inquiries from the press, FBIS has been assisting [] in Public Affairs.

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